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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,421	07/27/2001	Ryosuke Miyamoto	35.G2869	7005
5514	7590	09/12/2006		EXAMINER
				LU, TOM Y
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/915,421	MIYAMOTO, RYOSUKE	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Tom Y. Lu	2624		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5,7-16,18-30,32-41,43-51 and 53-56 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5,7-16,18-30,32-41,43-51 and 53-56 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ . 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Request for Continued Examination filed on 8/31/2006 has been entered.
2. Upon entry of Request for Continued Examination, the amendment filed on 8/31/2006 is now entered and considered.
3. Claims 6, 17, 31, 42 and 52 have been cancelled.
4. Claims 1, 11, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 36, 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55 and 56 have been amended.
5. Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-30, 32-41, 43-51 and 53-56 are pending.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on 8/31/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Nakai reference:

Applicant argues the Nakai reference fails to teach the claimed receiving means that receives the forgery-preventing function information from the other devices and then generates the device information table from that information. Upon further review of specification, and in light of applicant's argument, the examiner respectfully disagrees as follows: the Nakai reference teaches a device information table, which is shown at column 16, table 2. The examiner notes the forgery preventing functions are center mark and specimen image judging section. The examiner further notes although specimen image judging section is not listed in table 2 but Nakai at column 31, lines 1-17, teaches the specimen image judging section is a function that can be added to the copiers. The examiner also notes the specimen image judging section is a forgery

preventing function for scanner mode of a copier and center mark is a forgery preventing function of printing mode of a copier and not all copiers are equipped with such functions. As explained in the Nakai reference, a server is needed to forward the image data for scanning and printing; the server can be a host computer 96 or a copying machine 93. For the sake of argument, the examiner chooses the copying machine 93 as a server as explained at column 31, lines 19-27, and such server is equipped with the device information table in order to know where the image data should be forwarded. The generating of table 2 as shown at column 16 requires receiving information from the scanning and printing modes of copiers connected with the server copier, which in this case is copier 93. Additionally, the copiers that are connected to the server have different image processing functions, column 13, lines 54-59. The examiner notes the claimed “first receiving means and second receiving means” are just communication interface of copier 93. The functionalities of “control means” are also taught by Nakai at columns 32-39, where a copier that is not equipped with specimen image judging section forwards the image data to a copier with specimen image judging section, it could be copier 93 or another copier; and a copier that is not equipped with center marking capability will forward to another copier for printing. With regard to limitation of “wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first and second scanning apparatus and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed”, the examiner notes it is reasonably to assume that a copier is added or subtracted or changed of location in a network as shown in figure 41, the table 2 on a server must be updated accordingly to allow proper image data forwarding.

Claim Objections

7. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: a typographical error is found in line 20, "at least on" should be corrected as "at least one". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-30, 32-41, 43-51 and 53-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakai et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,602).

a. Referring to Claim 1, Nakai discloses an image processing apparatus comprising:
first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus;
second receiving means that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus;
generating means that generates a device information table on the basis of the information received by said first receiving means and the information received

by the second receiving means; and controlling means that controls which printer is to print image data received from one of the first or second scanning apparatus based on the device information table generated by the generating means, wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first second scanning apparatus and the first and second printing apparatus is changed (Nakai teaches a device information table, which is shown at column 16, table 2. The examiner notes the forgery preventing functions are center mark and specimen image judging section. The examiner further notes although specimen image judging section is not listed in table 2 but Nakai at column 31, lines 1-17, teaches the specimen image judging section is a function that can be added to the copiers. The examiner also notes the specimen image judging section is a forgery preventing function for scanner mode of a copier and center mark is a forgery preventing function of printing mode of a copier and not all copiers are equipped with such functions. As explained in the Nakai reference, a server is needed to forward the image data for scanning and printing; the server can be a host computer 96 or a copying machine 93. For the sake of argument, the examiner chooses the copying machine 93 as a server as explained at column 31, lines 19-27, and such server is equipped with the device information table in order to know where the image data should be forwarded. The generating of table 2 as shown at column 16 requires receiving information from the scanning and printing modes of copiers connected with the server copier, which in this case is

copier 93. Additionally, the copiers that are connected to the server have different image processing functions, column 13, lines 54-59. The examiner notes the claimed “first receiving means and second receiving means” are just communication interface of copier 93. The functionalities of “control means” are also taught by Nakai at columns 32-39, where a copier that is not equipped with specimen image judging section forwards the image data to a copier with specimen image judging section, it could be copier 93 or another copier; and a copier that is not equipped with center marking capability will forward to another copier for printing. With regard to limitation of “wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first and second scanning apparatus and the first and second printing apparatuses is changed”, the examiner notes it is reasonably to assume that a copier is added or subtracted or changed of location in a network as shown in figure 41, the table 2 on a server must be updated accordingly to allow proper image data forwarding.).

- b. Referring to Claim 2, Nakai discloses wherein said controlling means sends image data received from the second scanning apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function, to the first printing apparatus, which does have a forgery-preventing function (see explanation in Claim 1).
- c. Referring to Claim 3, Nakai discloses notifying means that notifies a user by a warning when the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus and the forgery preventing function of the first printing apparatus judges that the

image data is data of a specific image (column 32, lines 66-67 and column 33 line 1 and lines 8-9; note the specific image is paper money column 21, line 15).

- d. Referring to Claim 4, Nakai discloses wherein the data of the specific image is information expressing a specific pattern or a digital watermark (note paper money contains a specific pattern or a watermark).
- e. Referring to Claim 5, Nakai discloses wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive the information from the first and second scanning apparatuses and from the first and second printing apparatuses when the image processing apparatus turns on (the copying machines are connected as a network, the existence and functionalities of the copying machines are known to others when they are turned on).
- f. Referring to Claim 7, Nakai discloses wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive the information from the first and second scanning apparatuses when the first and second scanning apparatuses receive a scanning indication, or the first and second printing apparatuses receive a printing indication, from the image processing apparatus (the specimen image judging section of copying machine 93 functions when a user wants to print suspicious document, like paper money on one of the copying machines on the network).
- g. Referring to Claim 8, Nakai discloses wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when a new scanning apparatus or a new printing

apparatus is connected to the image processing apparatus via a network (see figure 41 for networking).

- h. Referring to Claim 9, Nakai discloses wherein the controlling means sends the image data received from the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, to one of the first or second printing apparatuses according to a section by an operator of the image processing apparatus (the image is judged at copying machine 93 and sent to a copying machine upon confirmation of the user).
- i. Referring to Claim 10, Nakai discloses wherein the controlling means sends a permission signal to the first scanning apparatus permitting the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, to send image data directly to one of the first or second printing apparatuses as selected by an operator, if the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus judges the image data as data of a specific image (the image is permitted by the copying machine 93 to be sent to copying machine 92 to print out a visible image with a center mark as explained in claim 1).
- j. Referring to Claim 11, see explanation in Claim 1 above; unaddressed limitations are: inputting means that inputs information related to a selected scanner apparatus for image scanning (column 32, lines 60-67, column 33, lines 1-3, and column 34, lines 49-53. The level of the specimen image judging means is selected by a user. The input means is shown in figure 16); and notifying means that notifies a user, based on the information received by the first receiving

means, the information received by the second receiving means, and the information input by the input means, of at least one available printing apparatus for which image data can be sent to for printing (column 38, lines 42-45, the user has the final say on which printer to be used for outputting the image, which means the user is notified).

- k. Referring to Claim 12, Nakai discloses wherein the notifying means notifies the user that the first printing apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, is an available printing apparatus if the selected scanning apparatus is the second scanning apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function (column 37, lines 58-65).
- l. With regard to Claim 13, see explanation of Claim 12.
- m. With regard to Claim 14, see explanation of Claim 3.
- n. With regard to Claim 15, see explanation of Claim 4.
- o. With regard to Claim 16, see explanation of Claim 5.
- p. With regard to Claim 18, see explanation of Claim 7.
- q. With regard to Claim 19, see explanation of Claim 8.
- r. With regard to Claim 20, see explanation of Claim 9.
- s. Referring to Claim 21, Nakai discloses wherein the notifying means further notifies the user of the specification information for the user to select a preferable scanning apparatus and printing apparatus (column 37, lines 58-65).
- t. With regard to Claim 22, see explanation in Claim 1.

- u. With regard to Claim 23, see explanation in Claim 1. Note the copying machines are embedded with computer program to execute the steps recited in claim 1.
- v. With regard to Claim 24, see explanation of Claim 11.
- w. With regard to Claim 25, see explanation of Claim 11, Note the copying machines are embedded with computer program to execute the steps recited in claim 11.
- x. With regard to Claim 26, see explanation in Claim 1. the interface unit is the communication interface unit in copying machine 93 that receives information from the other copying machines like 91 and 92 and the processor unit is control panel 90.
- y. With regard to Claim 27, see explanation in Claim 2.
- z. With regard to Claim 28, see explanation in Claim 3.
- aa. With regard to Claim 29, see explanation in Claim 4.
- bb. With regard to Claim 30, see explanation in Claim 5.
- cc. With regard to Claim 32, see explanation in Claim 7.
- dd. With regard to Claim 33, see explanation in Claim 8.
- ee. With regard to Claim 34, see explanation in Claim 9.
- ff. With regard to Claim 35, see explanation in Claim 10.
- gg. With regard to Claim 36, see explanation in Claim 1; and the claimed point and display units are shown in figures 12 and 16.
- hh. With regard to Claim 37, the user is formed through the LCD display which copying machine is selected for printing the image (column 37, lines 46-65).

ii. With regard to Claim 38, see explanation in Claim 2.

- jj. With regard to Claim 39, see explanation in Claim 3.
- kk. With regard to Claim 40, see explanation in Claim 4.
- ll. With regard to Claim 41, see explanation in Claim 5.
- mm. With regard to Claim 43, see explanation in Claim 7.
- nn. With regard to Claim 44, see explanation in Claim 8.
- oo. With regard to Claim 45, see explanation in Claim 9.
- pp. With regard to Claim 46, see explanation in Claim 10.
- qq. With regard to Claim 47, see explanation in Claim 1.
- rr. With regard to Claim 48, see explanation in Claim 2.
- ss. With regard to Claim 49, see explanation in Claim 3.
- tt. With regard to Claim 50, see explanation in Claim 4.
- uu. With regard to Claim 51, see explanation in Claim 5.
- vv. With regard to Claim 53, see explanation in Claim 7.
- ww. With regard to Claim 54, see explanation in Claim 8.
- xx. With regard to Claim 55, see explanation in Claim 10.
- yy. With regard to Claim 56, see explanation in Claim 1.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom Y. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7393. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571)-272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TYL

JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER